



PITTSFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Alan G. Kulberg, MD, Chairperson
Steve Smith, MA ~ Brad Gordon, JD ~ Kimberly Loring, PMHNP-BC

August 12, 2021

Nicholas Wright
Hull Street Energy
4747 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 1220
Bethesda, MD 20814

Re: Pittsfield Generating Power Plant, Pittsfield MA

Dear Mr. Wright:

As members of the Pittsfield Board of Health, we are committed to improving the health of our community and are concerned about the adverse effects of climate change and air pollution on our community members.

The fossil fuel-consuming peaker power plants in Berkshire County not only contribute to the global warming problem, but they also degrade local air quality by emitting pollutants including fine particulates (PM 2.5), sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides which can adversely affect cardiovascular and respiratory health, with known potential to worsen asthma and mortality rates.

Given the feasible and safer alternative of green energy such as solar energy with battery storage, we strongly encourage the owners of these outdated facilities to transition to green energy in order to comply with reductions in emissions. We also ask that you, as owners of the Pittsfield Generating peaker power plant in Pittsfield MA, answer our legislators', local officials' and community members' letter requesting a meeting to discuss how a coordinated effort can make this possible.

The community-based coalition that brought this issue to our attention have already had a positive discussion with Cogentrix, the owner of the other two peaker power plants in Berkshire County. They then connected with our state legislators, community officials and clean energy transition analysts to work on identifying any possible obstacles to this transition and ways to overcome them. They also started a conversation with Congressional aides to determine what federal incentives may be available. We'd like to hold a similar dialogue with you to understand if you also have plans to convert, or if elected officials and concerned citizens can aid in that transition.

A meeting with our community-based coalition could lead to an extension of the functional operation of this site far beyond the limited time left for fossil fuels use. We ask for your engagement with our community.

Sincerely,

Alan G. Kulberg, MD
Board Chair

Cc: Mayor Linda M. Tyer
Board of Health
Gina Armstrong, Pittsfield Health Department
Jane Wynn, Berkshire Environmental Action Team